

with Dr. Robinsons Compl.

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT.

The Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of  
Turton.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my twenty-second Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Turton, together with a summary of sanitary work during the year 1903.

The various statistics presented to you are based upon a calculated population of 12,452 at the middle period of the year.

The total number of births was 254; 128 males and 126 females, equal to an annual rate of 20·3. The equivalent County rate for 1902 was 26·85, and the number and rate in your district for the same year were 277 and 22·4 per thousand respectively. The mean rate for the previous 4 years is 21·82. Subjoined is an analytical table in respect of the 4 principal divisions of your district.

	Popula- tion. 1903.	1903.		1902.		Total.		Rate.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	1902	1903	1903.	1902.
Turton .....	6837	68	71	84	73	139	157	20·33	23·02
Belmont .....	848	11	8	11	11	19	22	22·4	26·2
Edgworth .....	2537	23	18	26	24	41	50	16·1	19·7
Bradshaw .....	2230	26	29	26	22	55	48	24·6	21·7
Whole District...	12452	128	126	147	130	254	277	20·39	22·4

It will be seen that the rate has materially diminished in the Turton, Belmont and Edgworth divisions, whilst it has increased in the



Bradshaw-Harwood division. The Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health shows that the birth rate for the whole County during 1902 was 0·28 over 1901, but that the rate for the ten years previously showed a decrease of 1·74. Your district would thus appear to bear an unfavourable comparison as the decrease is nearly 2 per thousand, the actual decrease being 1·9 per thousand.

The total net number of deaths was 162; 83 males and 79 females, a decrease of 2 as compared with the year 1902. The annual death rate was 12·8 as against 13·2 in the previous year and a County rate of 15·26. The following table shows the distribution of deaths in the great divisions of your district, and the comparative statistics in respect of the years 1902 and 1903.

	Popula- tion. 1903.	1903.		1902.		Total.		Rate.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	1903	1902	1903.	1902.
Turton ... ..	6837	55	45	47	59	100	106	14·6	15·5
Belmont ... ..	848	5	7	7	3	12	10	14·1	11·9
Edgworth ... ..	2537	11	13	14	10	24	24	9·4	9·4
Bradshaw ... ..	2230	12	14	13	11	26	24	11·6	10·8
Whole District...	12452	83	79	81	83	162	164	12·8	13·2

A decrease in the death rate is apparent in the Turton division, in Belmont and Bradshaw it is slightly higher, whilst in Edgworth it remains the same as the year 1902

In addition to the foregoing table I have appended 4 others: Table 1 furnishing details in respect of births and deaths in the whole district; Table 2 gives information of a similar nature in relation to the several divisions; Table 3 deals with the notification of infectious diseases; Table 4 gives an analysis of the causes of death at all ages, at various age periods, and the total number of deaths in each division of your district.

The infant mortality was 14, equal to a rate of 55·1 per thousand births. Zymotic diseases caused 14 deaths, or a rate of 1·12 per thousand of population. Phthisis caused 9 deaths, or a rate of 0·7 per thousand. Respiratory diseases caused 31 deaths, or a rate of 2·4 per thousand.

In comparison with the year 1902 I find the infant mortality is decidedly lower, the saving of infant life amounting to nearly 2 per cent. The County rate for 1902 was 139 per thousand, and therefore the rate in your district is very satisfactory. The Zymotic rate is also lower,



and but for the unfortunate Diphtheria outbreak, which was responsible for 10 deaths, the rate would have been one-fifth of that for the previous year. The deaths from Phthisis were double of the previous year, but is still lower than the County rate of 0.92 for the year, and 1.19 the mean of ten years—1892 to 1902—in the whole County.

The deaths from respiratory diseases were 4 less, and the rate was diminished by 0.4 per thousand. Nearly one-half of the deaths in this category were persons over 65 years in age. It is satisfactory to note that only one death from infantile diarrhoea is recorded.

The satisfactory features in the year's record are the lower general death rate, the considerably diminished infant mortality, and the comparatively low death rates from Phthisis, Respiratory and Zymotic diseases, which are the most important data in estimating the sanitary progress of a district.

I have compiled the subjoined Table so as to present to you the foregoing items in such form that you may easily compare the divisions of the district each with the other, and the past year with the previous one.

1903. DIVISIONS.	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Zymotic Diseases.		Phthisis.		Respiratory Diseases.		Infant Mortality.	
			No	rate	No.	rate	No.	rate	No.	rate
Turton .....	20.33	14.6	12	1.7	7	1.2	19	2.7	8	58.2
Belmont .....	22.4	14.1	1	1.1	1	1.1	2	2.2	1	52.7
Edgworth .....	16.1	9.4	1	0.3	2	0.6	3	1.1	1	24.3
Bradshaw .....	24.6	11.6	0	0	0	0	7	3.1	4	72.7
Whole District..	20.39	12.8	14	1.12	10	1.8	31	2.4	14	55.1
1902.										
Turton .....	23.02	15.5	21	3.7	4	0.58	13	1.9	12	76.5
Belmont .....	26.2	11.9	1	1.1	0	0	1	1.1	1	45.4
Edgworth .....	19.7	9.4	0	0	0	0	9	3.5	4	80.0
Bradshaw .....	21.7	10.8	0	0	0	0	12	5.4	3	62.5
Whole District...	22.3	13.2	22	1.6	4	0.32	35	2.82	20	72.2

During the year, 99 cases of infectious diseases were notified against 139 during the year 1902. The distribution of these cases in the several divisions of your district is shown in Table 3 accompanying this report.





Scarlet Fever was present during the whole year, its greatest intensity falling upon the month of June, when 12 cases were notified, in July, 4, and in December, 5, whilst the other months had 1 or 2 each. The total year's record was 36, with 1 death only, against 85 with 5 deaths during the year 1902.

Diphtheria was again epidemic as in the previous year, the disease being prevalent in the Eagley Ward in both years, and principally among the children attending the Eagley School. This outbreak, together with that of 1902, was specially reported upon by me to your Council on December 17th, and as the subject was exhaustively treated in that report, it is unnecessary to further enlarge upon it.

Measles prevailed in Chapel Town and neighbourhood during the early months of the year to such an extent that I deemed it advisable to recommend the closing of St. Anne's Schools for a period of a month from February 17th, after which the disease subsided. No deaths were recorded during the year.

Enteric Fever contributed 3 cases, and one death was registered. In two of these cases no local cause was discovered, whilst the other was traced to a defective house drain.

Erysipelas.—The cases notified were 5, but no deaths were registered.

Although Small-pox prevailed in the surrounding localities your district escaped infection. A large number of persons availed themselves of the protective influence of vaccination. As a precautionary measure your Council very wisely arranged with the Darwen Authority for the reservation of 2 beds in their Hospital during the dangerous period, for cases occurring in your district.

All cases of infectious disease were treated at home with as complete isolation as is possible under such circumstances, which at best is very unsatisfactory. Additional measures adopted with a view to the limitation of spread of infection were visitation of schools, the fumigating and cleansing of schools and infected rooms, and the fumigation of wearing apparel and bedding, which in the absence of any kind of stoving apparatus, almost an essential, is the only available method of dealing with these things.

The question of Hospital accommodation was under serious and prolonged consideration. After repeated conferences and negotiation with the Darwen Authority, an excellent scheme for the joint use of their Isolation Hospital at Bull Hill was framed and submitted to your Council, but I regret that the opposition to any scheme of Hospital provision led to its rejection.





The whole district is properly sewered and the Sewage Works at Eagley, Belmont, and Bradshaw were working satisfactorily. As complaints had been made of the escape of effluvia at some of the surface grids of the sewers, your Sanitary Committee directed that a special report be prepared and submitted to them by your Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and myself, which was done under date October 24th. The several reports were considered and the recommendations they contained were accepted. The scavenging of the district is fairly well performed, but still more might be done to remove the nuisance and injurious influences arising out of dust during the summer months and during the prevalence of dry East winds.

The excrement disposal is mainly upon the objectionable ashpit system. This system is a real evil and involves the Authority in considerable extra expense in the Scavenging Department. Your Sanitary Inspector informs me that there is a very material difference in the cost of the removal of refuse as between those houses which are provided with the water carriage system and those that are not, and therefore on economic grounds alone the question of encouraging conversion to the more cleanly system and discouraging the erection of new conveniences on the old ashpit system is well worth consideration by your Council. Your Inspector also informs me that the majority of the ashpits are not water-tight, and that it is almost impossible to prevent them from becoming water-logged, with the consequent danger of air contamination and other minor evils.

The water supply of the district is mainly from the Bolton Corporation Waterworks ; a few of the outlying farms and houses are dependent upon springs and shallow wells.

The quality of the water supplied to the Egerton portion of your district has been periodically unsatisfactory, and at times is quite unfit for domestic use. This question has been constantly before your Sanitary Committee for the past three years ; samples of the water have been frequently taken and exhibited to that Committee. The Committee has communicated with the Bolton Corporation Water Engineer and the Local Government Board, but notwithstanding every effort on their part to remedy this evil, it still exists, and that portion of your district has still to endure the inconvenience and injurious effects of an unwholesome water supply.

A case of Diphtheria, ending fatally, was caused through playing upon one of the refuse tips and collecting little "play things" from the refuse. I would recommend that measures for the greater security of these tips should be considered and adopted.



I have made systematic inspection of your whole district during the year, and have notified to your Sanitary Inspector several minor sanitary defects which have always been promptly removed.

The sanitary condition of the various workshops, &c., in the district has been carefully supervised, and I am able to report that in respect of cleanliness, air space, ventilation and drainage the legal requirements have been observed.

The bakehouses have been regularly inspected and have been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 18 samples of butter have been submitted to analysis, all of them proving to be free from adulteration.

Your Sanitary Inspector has made 225 smoke observations, and 9 notices of abatement were issued.

Your Sanitary Inspector has performed a considerable amount of sanitary investigation and work during the year, and reports that in relation to

#### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS—

There are 106 dairies and 190 cowsheds on the register, which have all been limewashed during the year.

That he has made 445 inspections of cowsheds and 212 of dairies, 60 of the former were found to be overcrowded 35 notices of abatement were issued, and abatement was effected in 38 instances. In the remaining 22, either the work of alteration is in progress or the time limit is unexpired. 6 new cowsheds were erected, 16 drains were trapped, 7 new liquid manure tanks were provided, 2 new dairies were built, and 5 dairies were repaired.

#### SLAUGHTER-HOUSES—

There were 11 slaughter-houses in the district, to which he paid 321 visits, and found them to be in a satisfactory condition. Only 3 notices were required to be issued, 2 on account of lime-washing and 1 on account of contravention of the bye-law in relation to keeping animals on the premises not intended for slaughter.

#### DWELLING HOUSES—

10 newly erected houses adopted the water-carriage system, and 4 the old privy system.



# SCAVENGING—

1,925 ashpits were cleansed in the scavenging area, and regular inspections of the privies and ashpits outside that area were made, and were found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition.

173 privies and ashpits were found defective, and 60 were repaired, the rest being in process of repair or converted into the water carriage system, &c.

The following is the summary of work performed in the Sanitary department :—

No. of inspections	....	....	....	....	1682
„ re-inspections	....	....	....	....	1570
„ notices issued	....	....	....	....	199
„ abatements	....	....	....	169	
Time limit unexpired, &c.	....	....	....	30	
House drains defective, &c....	....	....	....	....	165
„ „ cleansed, &c....	....	....	....	....	74
„ „ re-constructed	....	....	....	....	144
„ „ trapped	....	....	....	....	143
Yard surfaces repaired, &c....	....	....	....	....	148
Slopstone pipes repaired	....	....	....	....	74
„ „ disconnected	....	....	....	....	28
Downspouts defects removed	....	....	....	....	65
New ventilation shafts fixed	....	....	....	....	9
Water carriage conversion of privies	....	....	....	....	97
Dry ashpits provided	....	....	....	....	59
Visits to refuse tips	....	....	....	....	81
Carcases of meat inspected	....	....	....	....	13
„ „ unfit for food	....	....	....	1	
Private urinals removed from improper positions	....	....	....	....	3
„ „ repaired	....	....	....	....	4
Houses fumigated	....	....	....	....	79
Schools fumigated	....	....	....	....	7
Other institutions fumigated	....	....	....	....	4
Inspections of workshops	....	....	....	....	60
Notices issued for sanitary defects and lime washing	....	....	....	....	9

I append the various Tables mentioned in the course of this Report.





The following is a summary of the Special Reports which I have made to your Sanitary Committee during the year.

February 17th.—Relating to the closure of St. Anne's Schools.

August 26th.—Relating to the closure of Eagley School.

October 24th.—Relating to the ventilation and flushing of the sewers.

December 15th.—On the recent prevalence of Diphtheria in the District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. ROBINSON, M.D., L.S.Sc.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Dunscar,

January 16th, 1904.

